

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are currently pending in the application. In the Office Action dated May 18, 2007, claims 1-35 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 28, 33 and 35 have been amended, without acquiescence or prejudice to pursue the original claims in a related application. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claims 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

1. According to the Office Action, claims 32 and 34 allegedly recite a system that fails to assert a program recorded on an appropriate computer-readable medium which is required to be statutory. Applicants note that “an element in a claim for a combination may be expressed as a means or step for performing a specified function without the recital of structure, material, or acts in support thereof, and such claim shall be construed to cover the corresponding structure, material, or acts described in the specification and equivalents thereof” (35 USC § 112). Applicants respectfully submit that the structure, material, and acts for claims 32 and 34 is described throughout the specification. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for claims 32 and 34.
2. According to the Office Action, claims 33 and 35 are intended to cover carrier waves, which are allegedly believed not to enable the computer usable medium to act as computer hardware component. Without acquiescence to the stated reason for rejection, claims 33 and 35 has been amended. For at least the foregoing reason, Applicants respectfully request that the § 101 claim rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. According to the Office Action, claim 28 recites “the group” which is unclear whether “the group” refers to the first or second group. Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the claimed invention and Applicants respectfully request that the § 101 claim rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 18-31 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent Publication No.: US 2005/0160419 A1 published by Alam et al. (Alam).

Claim 18 recites “creating a first private symbolic link to reference the first version of the shared file, the first private symbolic link **only applying to members of a first group associated with the first private symbolic link**, and creating a second private symbolic link to reference the second version of the shared file, the second private symbolic link only applying to members of a second group associated with the second private symbolic link.” Claims 34 and 35 recite similar limitations. Applicants respectfully submit that Alam does not disclose a first private symbolic link **only applying to members of a first group associated with the first private symbolic link** and a second symbolic link applying to members of a second group associated with the second private symbolic link.

According to the Office Action, paragraph 17 of Alam discloses creating a first private symbolic link to reference the first version of the shared file, the first private symbolic link only applying to members of a first group associated with the first private symbolic link, and creating a second private symbolic link to reference the second version of the shared file, the second private symbolic link only applying to members of a second group associated with the second private symbolic link. Applicants respectfully submit that Alam does not disclose a first private symbolic link **only applying to members of a first group associated with the first private symbolic link** and a second symbolic link applying to members of a second group associated with the second private symbolic link.

Alam discloses writing a symbolic link to storage of a test server such that a call by the test server for /project/subproject is changed to a call for /project/subproject/versionx+1 (paragraph [0017]). After testing the server with the symbolic link, the production proxy server of Alam routes client requests for with the address including "www.IBM.com/project/subproject" to the test server instead of the working server (Fig. 1 and paragraph [0017]).

Alam discloses routing client requests from a working server to a test server with a symbolic link. Alam is silent with respect to a first private symbolic link only applying to members of a first group, much less a first private symbolic link only applying to members of a first group and a second symbolic link applying to members of a second group. Alam merely discloses routing client requests to a server supporting a symbolic link. To the extent that the Examiner considers routing clients to a server supporting a symbolic link to be members of a group, the proxy server routes all client requests with the address including "www.IBM.com/project/subproject" to the server supporting the symbolic link and does not limit routing of clients to only members of a group associated with a first private symbolic link. Thus, Alam does not disclose a first private symbolic link **only applying to members** of a first group **associated with the first private symbolic link** and a second symbolic link applying to members of a second group associated with the second private symbolic link.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Alam fails to anticipate every limitation of claim 18. Because claims 34 and 35 share each of the limitations of claim 18 discussed above, they are not anticipated by Alam. Furthermore, because claims 19-31 depend from claims 18, 34 and 35, they also are not anticipated by Alam.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-17 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alam in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,966,058 issued to Earl et al. (Earl).

Claim 1 recites "creating a private symbolic link for the first member to reference the second version of the shared file, the private symbolic link **only applying to members** of a group **associated with the private symbolic link**, the group including less than all members

in the computing system.” Claim 32 and 33 recite similar limitations. According to the Office Action, paragraph 17 of Alam discloses creating a private symbolic link for the first member to reference the second version of the shared file, the private symbolic link **only applying to members** of a group associated with the private symbolic link, the group including less than all members in the computing system. Applicants respectfully submit Alam does not disclose creating a private symbolic link for the first member to reference the second version of the shared file, the private symbolic link **only applying to members** of a group associated with the private symbolic link, the group including less than all members in the computing system.

As discussed above, Alam merely discloses a proxy server routes all client requests with the address including “www.IBM.com/project/subproject” to the server supporting the symbolic link and does not limit routing of clients to only members of a group associated with a first private symbolic link. Further, there is no indication in Alam that the members of a group associated with a private symbolic link are less than all members in a computing system, and Alam suggests that all client requests with the address including “www.IBM.com/project/subproject” are routed to the server supporting a symbolic link. Thus, Alam does not disclose creating a private symbolic link for the first member to reference the second version of the shared file, the private symbolic link **only applying to members** of a group associated with the private symbolic link, the group including less than all members in the computing system.

Earl does not remedy the deficiencies present in Alam. Earl discloses sequentially loading and rebooting each of the plurality of nodes (col. 2 lines 39-41) and does not disclose a private symbolic link **only applying to members** of a group associated with the private symbolic link, the group including less than all members in the computing system.

For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Alam in view of Earl fails to anticipate every limitation of claim 18. Because claims 32 and 33 share each of the limitations of claim 1 discussed above, they are not anticipated by Alam in view of Earl. Furthermore, because claims 2-17 depend from claims 1, they also are not anticipated by Alam in view of Earl.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all claims are believed allowable, and an allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If the Commissioner determines that additional fees are due or that an excess fee has been paid, the Patent Office is authorized to debit or credit (respectively) Deposit Account No. 50-4047, billing reference no. 7030492001.

Respectfully submitted,

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